

# A COMPLETE CHECK ON CHARLTON'S CHAMPIONS

**MIDDLESBROUGH** will select their 12 for tomorrow's third round F.A. Cup tie at Loakes Park, from a squad of 16 players. Here's a complete run-down in Jack Charlton's First Division men.

**JIM PLATT** (goalkeeper): A regular in the Second Division championship-winning side and a possible successor to Tottenham's Pat Jennings in the Northern Ireland international side. Has already played for his country at youth and amateur international level. A bargain £7,000 buy from Ballymena — with a £3,000 bonus thrown in after a dozen appearances.

A six-foot, powerfully-built player who uses his height to good advantage. Has virtually been an ever-present since he won his place. If Northern Ireland look to the future, and the 1978 World Cup, Platt could come into the international reckoning soon.

**JOHN CRAGGS** (right back): At £60,000, the club's record signing. Made the short journey from Newcastle United to Ayresome Park and has continued to demonstrate his class. Jack Charlton rates him as the best attacking right back in the business.

Craggs has clever ball control for a full back. Uses this and his speed to prompt many attacks. A talented player to watch.

**FRANK SPRAGGON** (left back): A long-serving player, is having his testimonial season, with the promise of a bumper pay night in an end-of-season match against Sunderland. A former left half, he has adjusted well to his more defensive role.

A solid and reliable player who joined the club straight from a Durham County school. Is the son-in-law of Harold Shepherdson, the former England trainer and Middlesbrough's assistant manager.

**GRAEME SOUNESS** (right half): One of the club's best bargain buys in recent years. The Boro' picked him up for £30,000 from Spurs two seasons ago. At White Hart Lane, Souness could not break into the big-star squad. Since his move to the North-East, the Scot has blossomed into a star in his own right.

Has won Scottish Under-23 and full international honours. Could be on the international scene for many years. An artist in midfield.

**STUART BOAM** (centre half): A towering defender and captain. Led the Boro' to the Second Division title last season. Joined

the club from Mansfield Town, where his displays had attracted attention from First and Second Division clubs.

Middlesbrough moved in while others hesitated. Have never regretted their decision — or the £50,000 cheque. His value has soared since.

**WILLIE MADDREN** (left half): A local product who has won England Under-23 honours and forced his way into Don Revie's senior squad. A player who could win full international honours before he is very much older.

With Boam, he forms an outstanding defensive partnership. A player noted for his 100 per cent reliability rather than for flamboyancy. A professionals' player and rated Mr. Dependable by Boro' fans.

**BOBBY MURDOCH** (outside right): A legendary figure in the great Celtic side. Won everything that was going including eight First Division championship medals and a European Cup medal.

Once rated "the best wing half in Europe" by Celtic manager Jock Stein. Given a free transfer as a thank-you gesture for his wonderful service, the Scottish international won another championship honour last season with Middlesbrough. A player of experience and midfield skill, noted for his accurate distribution. Misses tomorrow's game due to a two week suspension which began on Wednesday.

**JOHN HICKTON** (inside right): A multi-purpose player, who has given the club tremendous service since his 1966 signing from Sheffield Wednesday. Has played in several positions with distinction.

At one time, Hickton was the most feared striker in the Second Division. Now he concentrates on a team role. A veteran, who is holding his place on merit.

**DAVID MILLS** (centre forward): A Young England player rated to have "a tremendous future" by Don Revie. The England boss went overboard after his Under-23 display against Czechoslovakia, at Crystal Palace, earlier this season.

A local "discovery," who was once the target of boo-boys at Ayresome Park. Has since silenced his critics with his unselfish team play, skill and scoring power. Noticeable that the team hit a lean spell while he was on the injured list.

**ALAN FOGGON** (inside left): A former Newcastle United wonder boy — he won an Inter Cities Fairs Cup medal at the age of 18. After that his soccer career nosedived and Cardiff City offered him to potential buyers for £10,000.

Only Middlesbrough had the courage to rescue him from oblivion. The player has since repaid them handsomely and is now one of the leading First Division goalscorers. A fast-raiding, determined striker.

**DAVID ARMSTRONG** (outside left): At 19, the "babe" of the side. A Durham County "discovery" who has progressed from the junior ranks. Won his first England Under-23 cap in Portugal earlier this season.

Jack Charlton rates him "one of the best left-sided players in the game." Top judges in the game predict he will win a full England place in two years — and stay in the team.

**ALAN WILEY** (centre forward): Had an outstanding First Division debut as a 17-year-old earlier in the season against Manchester City. Scored his first goal against Wolves as a second-half substitute shortly after.

A knee injury received with the England youth international team put him on the sidelines for a while, but this quick-moving forward has since returned to the first-team squad.

**HARRY CHARLTON** (midfield): Also born in the North-East, but no relation to the Boro' manager. A clever ball player who deputised for Murdoch in November, then went down with illness.

**PETER BRINE** (Midfield or forward): A Londoner, whose father was born and bred in Middlesbrough. Starred in two recent games but then stood down when Murdoch returned after injury. Likely to take the place of Murdoch in midfield.

**MALCOLM SMITH** (centre forward): With Brine, shared the substitute's role in the championship season. An aggressive, hard-running type of player who has a good scoring record.

**BRIAN TAYLOR** (defensive wing half): A solid, dependable six-footer from the Workop area. Chances are restricted through the reliability of Boam and Maddren but Charlton would not hesitate to call on him.